bring before the Parliament a comprehensive legislation which will, *inter-alia*, provide for regulatory mechanism for various aspects of broadcasting. However, the exact details are yet to be finalised and no time frame can be indicated for the same as yet.

Raising the Number of IT Programmes

2716. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are raising number of I.T. Programmes to two lakhs as stated by him as appeared in 'Indian Express' of 27th May, 2000; and

(b) if so, how Government are going to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A high level Task Force under the Chairmanship of Minister for Human Resource Development has been constituted by the Government on 01.08.2000. The main objective of the Task Force is to prepare a long term strategy for Human Resource Development in IT. Amongst its terms of reference it is required to draw up a plan to optimally use the existing infrastructure of the IIT's/Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs), other engineering colleges and educational institutions to double their student intake on IT from the next academic year and triple it in the next two years. This report is required to be submitted to the Government within one month. Government will take further action on receipt of the Report. Meantime several steps have been initiated by the Government to promote IT education at various levels which include: setting up of Smart Schools, promotion of virtual Universities, IT Education in the non-formal sector through DOEACC Scheme and increasing the intake of students to both IITs and RECs.